

Appendix B
Montana Historic Preservation Planning
Questionnaire #2
2001

Results
&
Discussion

Montana 2001 Historic Preservation Planning Questionnaire #2 Discussion

The Montana Historic Preservation Planning Questionnaire #2 was designed to complement Questionnaire #1 both in content and by targeting a broader non-professional audience of potential interested parties. These included educators, politicians, owners of historic properties, members of local historical societies, avocational historians and archaeologists, those who have had contact with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and more generally those who can be described as "friends of Montana history." Questionnaire #2 was first made available in April 2001, at the annual meeting of the Montana Archaeological Society. It was subsequently widely distributed in May 2001, in conjunction with the mailing of the 2001 Montana Historic Preservation poster to approximately 780 addresses. It was included in SHPO correspondence throughout the summer of 2001 and finally distributed in the registration packets of those attending the Montana History Conference in October 2001.

Despite the relatively limited response (N = 21), Questionnaire #2 succeeded in providing feedback from a different audience, including information that can be compared and contrasted with that obtained from Questionnaire #1. Three of the five questions asked on Questionnaire #2 (a sixth question identified the affiliation of the respondent), repeated inquiries on Questionnaire #1. Question 2 of both questionnaires, for example, asked respondents to rate the importance of the nine goals adopted in the 1997 Montana Historic Preservation Plan. Questions 3 and 4 of Questionnaire #2 repeated Questions 6 and 5 of Questionnaire #1, respectively, in asking respondents about what types of guidance would be most beneficial and what kinds of Montana heritage properties merit special attention. The two new questions on Questionnaire #2 were designed for open-ended responses. Question 1 asked respondents to identify the most important issue affecting the preservation of Montana's heritage properties and what could be done to address this issue. Question 5 invited any advice or comments to consider in statewide historic preservation planning.

The tabulated results for each of the questions in the 2001 Questionnaire #2 are attached. These are briefly discussed here.

Issues in Historic Preservation (Question 1)

While not prompted with a list of possible issues, all but one of the respondents to Questionnaire #2 identified primary issues that were also rated among the top four issues in Questionnaire #1. *Funding* was the top issue in both questionnaires, identified by 7 of the 18 responses in Questionnaire #2 and given a rating of 8.23 out of 10 in Questionnaire #1. *Sprawl and/or the loss of historic Mainstreets* was a close second to funding as a primary issue identified in Questionnaire #2 (N = 6). This issue ranked fourth in significance on Questionnaire #1. In addition to these two primary issues, the *viability of local museums* and *private ownership* were identified by two respondents each in Questionnaire #2. These two issues may reasonably be equated with the second

most significant issue recognized in Questionnaire #1: "local ability to preserve historical/cultural resources." A single individual identified *natural resource extraction* as the most important issue affecting historic preservation in Montana – an issue that was not prompted for in Questionnaire #1.

Interestingly, *public education* figures most prominently among the solutions offered to the issues in historic preservation identified in Questionnaire #2. "Public awareness of cultural/preservation issues" was rated as the third most significant issue by respondents to Questionnaire #1. *Funding* also appears in Questionnaire #2 as both an issue and a solution. Other solutions suggested to preservation issues include changing laws, providing support and encouragement, and documentation.

Goals for Historic Preservation (Question 2)

As with Questionnaire #1, people were asked to rate (on a scale of 1-10) the importance of the nine goals adopted in the 1997 Montana Historic Preservation Plan, Working Together. For Questionnaire #2, all goals rated an average score above 6.8. Not surprisingly, given responses to Question 1 above, the highest importance was awarded by this group of respondents to Goal 6: *Identify sources for technical and financial preservation assistance*. This goal, while arguably scored high by historic preservation professionals, ranked only sixth in priority in Questionnaire #1. Interestingly, the other primary difference between the results of the two questionnaires is the ranking of Goal 3: *Strengthen historic preservation at the local level*. Contrary to conventional wisdom perhaps, the respondents to Questionnaire #2 (representing predominantly "non-historic professionals") ranked this goal only sixth, whereas those responding to Questionnaire #1 (predominantly historic preservation professionals) placed it third in priority.

The remaining ranking of goals is generally similar between the two questionnaires. In both cases, the same three 1997 goals ranked lowest relative to others: *study issues and develop plans for preservation* (Goal 7); *promote cultural resources as a tool for economic development* (Goal 8); and *create recreation links among Montana's natural and cultural sites* (Goal 9).

Among the eight write-in goals provided in Questionnaire #2, several could be subsumed under the existing 1997 goals while others are relatively narrow. Two individuals identified *land use planning* and *"smart" growth* as a potential goal.

Helpful Guidance (Question 3)

Guidance on *sources for financial assistance*, *on-site preservation training in techniques*, and *general how-to guidance*, each received more than one mention by respondents to Questionnaire #2. This closely conforms to the results of Questionnaire #1 (Question 6).

Heritage Property Types Meriting Special Attention (Question 4)

As in Questionnaire #1, responses to this question ranged from very general (*National Historic Monuments*) to very specific (*Virginia City*). Historic properties were mentioned most often (N = 31), followed by archaeological sites (N = 10), and traditional cultural properties (N = 9). Among historic sites, *Downtown Buildings/Mainstreets*, *railroad buildings*, *houses/mansions*, *schools*, and *rural agricultural buildings* were each mentioned more than once, as was *Virginia City*, a National Historic Landmark. *Rock Art sites* (pictographs and petroglyphs) were also frequently identified and can be considered both as archaeological and traditional cultural properties. These results closely follow those of Questionnaire #1.

Advice and Comments (Question 5)

This open-ended question expectedly generated a variety of responses. Among them was encouragement for more *historic preservation lobbying* and for more *outreach and education* (including press, signage, on-site visits, and public meetings). One individual also advised on the importance of working together with public agencies as the managers of many heritage properties while another advocated for the establishment of a Mainstreet program in Montana. Other observations included that not all historic sites should be developed for tourism and that more oral history about properties needed to be gathered before it was lost. Finally, given the strong theme surrounding funding as both an issue and a solution for historic preservation, one individual also wisely pointed out that "*more money is not the answer if the money is not used appropriately.*"

Who are You? (Question 6)

The 21 respondents to Questionnaire #2 included 10 individuals associated with museums or local historical societies, 3 with education, 2 architects, 2 government cultural resource specialists, one consultant, one local government employee, and two members of the general interested public. This is a markedly different population than that sampled by Questionnaire #1. Also, while possible, it is unlikely that individuals responded to both questionnaires.

MFB
9/2002

Montana 2001 Historic Preservation Questionnaire #2 Results

1. Issues in historic preservation. What do you think is the most important issue affecting the preservation of historic properties, archaeological sites and/or traditional cultural places in Montana today? What do you think could be done to address this issue? (N = 18)

(7) Funding

- . Establish state fund through bed tax or coal trust (4)
- . Write in support of local grant applications (2)
- . Develop network of support among historic sites

(6) Sprawl/Loss of Historic Downtowns

- . Education – public and legislative awareness (4)
- . Growth/Land Use laws (2)
- . Transportation alternatives
- . Preservation grants
- . Document before loss

(2) Private Ownership

- . Educate private landowners about importance of resources
- . Must keep land private with public access

(2) Local Museum Viability

- . Change IRS rules
- . Encourage volunteerism
- . Funding

(1) Resource Extraction

- . Education – public awareness

2. Goals for historic preservation in the next 5 years: Please read the following nine goals adopted in the 1997 Montana Preservation Plan, *Working Together*. There is space to add up to 3 more goals. Then rate each goal on a scale of importance from 1 to 10, where 1 is not very important and 10 is very important. You may give the same rating to a number of goals.

(N = 17)

Importance
(from 1 = low
up to 10 = high)

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Conserve Montana's cultural resources | ___ 8.00 (2) |
| 2. Incorporate preservation into public decision making | ___ 7.71 (4) |
| 3. Strengthen historic preservation at the local level | ___ 7.29 (6) |
| 4. Educate the public about Montana history and historical places | ___ 7.88 (3) |
| 5. Encourage cooperation between government agencies in preservation.. | ___ 7.59 (5) |
| 6. Identify sources for technical and financial preservation assistance | ___ 8.24 (1) |
| 7. Study issues and develop plans for preservation | ___ 7.24 (7) |
| 8. Promote cultural resources as a tool for economic development | ___ 6.88 (9) |
| 9. Create recreation links among Montana's natural and cultural sites | ___ 7.06 (8) |

Write-ins (10, 11, 12)

(2) Growth control and land use planning

- (1) Economic assistance to private owners; Develop school curriculum;
Develop inter-state cooperation through regional themes; Educate legislature
Develop more signage/tourism promotion; Advocate transportation reform

3. What type of guidance in historic preservation would be most beneficial to you?

- (4) Sources for financial assistance
- (2) On-site preservation training in techniques
- (2) How-to guidance
 - On-site visits from SHPO staff
 - List of priority structures
 - Application of preservation standards for treatment to MT buildings
 - Legal framework for historic preservation
 - Newspaper stories
 - National Register workshop

4. Please list up to three *kinds* of Montana heritage properties (types of historic structures like post offices, traditional cultural places like rock art, or archaeological sites like tipi rings) that you feel merit special attention in the next 5 years:

Historic Sites (N = 31)

- 6 Downtown Buildings/Mainstreets
- 3 Railroad depots/features
- 3 Historic Mansions (e.g. Daly Mansion)
- 3 Historic Houses
- 3 Schools
- 3 Virginia City
- 2 Rural Agricultural Buildings (e.g. grain elevators)
- Fairgrounds
- Historic Landscapes
- Historic Boats
- Historic Churches
- Stagecoach Depots
- Courthouses
- Community Halls
- National Historic Monuments (e.g. Pompeys Pillar)

Archaeological Sites (N = 10)

- 5 Rock Art Sites
- Paleo-Indian Sites
- Tipi Rings
- Lewis & Clark Sites
- Pre-Lewis & Clark Anglo Inscriptions
- Paleontological Sites

Traditional Cultural Sites (N = 9)

- 5 Rock Art Sites
- 2 Traditional Cultural Landscapes
- 2 Religious Sites

Note: Rock Art sites counted as both archaeological and traditional cultural properties

5. Do you have any additional advice or comments for us to consider in statewide historic preservation planning?

- . Make more visits to local museums/sites
- . Need better directional signage/maps
- . Talk to legislators and Governor (lobby)
- . Need Mainstreet program
- . More money is not answer if not used appropriately
- . Need to leave some historic sites undeveloped
- . Need more press
- . Form a citizens ad-hoc committee to lobby
- . Keep agencies involved – they are the public managers
- . Do more oral history about historic properties
- . Need more public outreach, e.g. public meetings, illustrate with positive examples, create endangered list, and organize regional efforts.

6. Please tell us about yourself. What is your primary role in historic preservation?

- ☐ 2 Interested public
- ☐ Tribal representative/Native American
- ☐ 2 Local/State/Federal government cultural resource/preservation specialist
- ☐ 1 Other local/state/federal government agency role
- ☐ Elected public official
- ☐ 1 Cultural resource/environmental consulting firm
- ☐ 10 Museum/historical society
- ☐ 2 Architect
- ☐ 3 Teacher/educator
- ☐ Student
- ☐ Business that consults with SHPO
- ☐ Other _____

Thank you!

Optional

Your name: _____

Your organization: _____

Your address: _____

Return to: Montana State Historic Preservation Office, Montana Historical Society, PO Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202. (Questions? Call SHPO at 406-444-7715)